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LETTER DATED 21 OCTOBER 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Once again in conjunction with our letter to the Security Council contained in document S/1994/1175 of 17 October 1994, we are surprised to learn of the developing theory that Mt. Igman does not fall within the "safe area" of Sarajevo or that its occupation by the "Bosnian Serb" forces does not constitute a threat to Sarajevo. This position is in direct contravention of resolutions 824 (1993), 836 (1993) and 900 (1994) as well as the circumstances that initiated the concept of the "exclusion zone" around Sarajevo.

Mt. Igman overlooks the valley of Sarajevo. Its occupation by "Bosnian Serb" forces would expose the city, including substantial civilian areas, to yet another potential firing line. More importantly, Mt. Igman's occupation would also mean the end of the "Blue Route", the "lifeline" to Sarajevo.

When Mt. Igman was under the initial attack of "Bosnian Serb" forces in August 1993, the then United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) command asserted that this was a mortal danger to Sarajevo.

This imminent threat to Sarajevo's survival caused alarm in many capitals and encouraged President Clinton to state that he would not allow the "strangulation" of Sarajevo. NATO air action was advanced as an option to counter the "Bosnian Serb" offensive. This action was avoided by UNPROFOR's getting agreement from the "Bosnian Serb" forces that they would withdraw from the most threatening areas.

We must question why now the occupation of Mt. Igman by "Bosnian Serb" forces no longer constitutes a threat to Sarajevo, especially in view of NATO's reassertion in its communiqué of 9 February 1994, in support of resolutions 824 (1993) and 836 (1993), that the "Alliance reaffirmed their readiness, in accordance with the Alliance decisions of 2 and 9 August 1993, to carry out airstrikes in order to prevent the strangulation of Sarajevo".

The Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina stands ready to pull out all its forces from the so-called "demilitarized zone" on Mount Igman established by agreement on 14 August 1993, despite the fact that we believe this is not

required by the terms of the agreement and that this is clearly not consistent with resolutions 824 (1993), 836 (1993), 900 (1994) and other relevant resolutions that are the basis for Sarajevo as a "safe zone"/"exclusion zone". At the same time, we are only prepared to carry through with this offer if:

1. The "Bosnian Serb" forces pull out from the same area as not only called for by the agreement but also by Sarajevo's status as a "safe zone"/"exclusion zone". The "Bosnian Serb" forces have used their present position to attack the "Blue Route" and surrounding civilian targets directly threatening Sarajevo's lifeline; and

2. UNPROFOR is prepared to fulfil its existing mandate and use all the mechanisms available to it to defend the "Blue Route" and surrounding areas against violations of the safe area and the tightening strangulation of Sarajevo.

We are undertaking these generous concessions in order to open the "Blue Route" and reduce the restrangulation of Sarajevo.

It unfortunately appears that some within the UNPROFOR command are committed to only partially implement the agreement of 14 August 1993 and totally ignore the mandates of Security Council resolutions and the NATO commitments. This certainly turns upside down the entire concept of Security Council and civilian authority over the military. It also appears that the consequences are to allow the "Bosnian Serbs" to maintain their ever-tightening stranglehold over Sarajevo.

The Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its people cannot any longer afford implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions under Chapter VII on the basis of Chapter VI of the Charter or changing convenience standards.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative